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tion that the area of Greece in which the *polis* develops is precisely the area of Mycenaean culture.

But this is not the place in which to record the particulars in which the reviewer and the author agree and disagree. To report the outstanding characteristic of the book will be more apposite: it is that the work as a whole is descriptive rather than interpretative in character—that it belongs with the histories of Busolt and Niese rather than with those of Beloch and Meyer. The author's handiwork is found primarily in the selecting and expressing and massing of the facts. He has no perceptible body of general ideas in the light of which he makes Greece intelligible to his readers. This is pardonable, if not positively virtuous, in a text-book, where the teacher can add *viva voce* the necessary contacts and contrasts with contemporary or other known epochs. It detracts terribly from the interest and significance of the work for the general reader. Will its detachment from the ephemeral spirit of its age—its seeming timelessness—bring compensation in the long run? Would Thucydides even have lived without the speeches?

W. S. FERGUSON.

Rome, la Grèce, et les Monarchies Hellénistiques au III^e Siècle avant J.-C. (273–205). [Bibliothèque des Écoles Françaises d'Athènes et de Rome, fascicule 124.] Par MAURICE HOLLEAUX. (Paris: E. de Boccard. 1921. Pp. iv, 386. 40 fr.)

THE author of this book has been long known in scientific circles in two different capacities—as director of the French School in Athens during its second great campaign at Delos, and as a student of Greek history especially of the Macedonian period. In the latter capacity M. Holleaux has distinguished himself by combining two qualities rarely associated, German thoroughness and attention to detail and French lucidity and grace of style. The book is true to form. Indeed it could hardly be otherwise, since it contains, now set in a larger structure, several of the author's earlier studies. The larger structure is, however, the essential novelty of the book.

The task M. Holleaux has set himself is to examine the alleged contacts of Rome and the Hellenistic states prior to 215 B. C. in the light that is thrown back upon them by his searching analysis of the circumstances in which Rome intervened in the East between 212 and 200 B. C. This analysis yields for him two convictions: (1) that the Roman account of Rome's relations with the Greeks is utterly unreliable when it either deviates from or supplements Polybius; and (2) that Rome did not possess at the time of the First and Second Macedonian wars old-established "friendships" (*amicitiae*) with Eastern cities and kingdoms, and that her whole course of action after the establishment of her protectorate over Illyricum in 229 B. C. precludes the idea that even then she had any conscious interest or policy in Hellenic affairs. M. Holleaux, accordingly,

rejects the "friendship" entered into between Rhodes and Rome in 306 B. C. as due to a palpable corruption of the text of Polybius; he reduces the "amity" contracted between Ptolemy Philadelphus and Rome in 273 B. C. to a unilateral courtesy of small and ephemeral significance; he treats as unhistorical the alleged interventions of Rome on behalf of Acarnania and Ilium in 239-237 B. C.; and finds that Rome first crossed the Adriatic diplomatically and militarily at the same moment in 229 B. C., when regard for Italy led her to secure in Corcyra, Epidamnus, and Apollonia the jumping-off places for a Macedonian invader. On M. Holleaux's construction this was a mortal affront to Macedon, which consequently had thereafter the fixed purpose of throwing Rome back beyond the Strait of Otranto at the earliest opportunity. Hence it is all the more curious, on the current interpretation of Rome's progress in the East, that Rome did not try immediately thereafter, or in 219 B. C., to play the rôle in Hellas so successfully played earlier in the century by the Ptolemies, and enter at once into diplomatic relations with Macedon's enemies in Greece. Instead, even after 215 B. C., she disinterested herself in Hellenic affairs the moment Macedon concluded peace with her (205 B. C.), and only adopted the historic policy of "liberating Greek cities" when Antiochus III. hove in sight, with all the much overrated might of Asia behind him, and concluded an alliance with Philip V. for the prosecution of what the senate thought must prove anti-Roman designs (202-201 B. C.). Fear of Antiochus the Great and of monarchical machinations in general, not "friendship" for Ptolemy and Athens, led the senate to embark in 200 B. C. on the career which eventuated in first the hegemony and then the empire of Rome over the Greeks.

M. Holleaux's book is accordingly an elaborate and (let us add) very powerful attack on a general point of view which is represented in France by M. Colin's *Rome et la Grèce de 200 à 146 avant Jésus-Christ*, a point of view taken for example by Mommsen, Droysen, and Eduard Meyer, that a network of diplomatic negotiations bound Rome and the Hellenistic states together in one political whole and that the loss of the historical writings of the third century B. C. alone creates for us a seemingly impassable chasm between West and East from the time of Pyrrhus to that of Philip V. That these negotiations are not merely not reported but were really non-existent, M. Holleaux tries to show in particular by the ignorance of them revealed in several places by Polybius, both in what he says himself apropos of the events of Philip's time and in what he lets others say and the Romans do. We are thus invited to substitute for the old view of a crafty, designing senate laying long in advance the plans for its eventual domination over Greece the new view of a senate that not only had no commercial interests to support beyond the Adriatic, as Professor Frank contends, but also had its political vision limited to purely Italian affairs and considered the things that were happening far off in the East, when it knew of them at all, as quite devoid of any political interest for Rome.

On the whole M. Holleaux's case seems to us well established. It is not alone in prehistoric times that we have been inferring too readily the existence of political and commercial areas from the existence of cultural areas. Distance is an historic factor that needs to be appraised anew for each successive generation.

W. S. FERGUSON.

A Large Estate in Egypt in the Third Century B. C.: a Study in Economic History. By MICHAEL ROSTOVITZ, Professor of History. [University of Wisconsin. Studies in the Social Sciences and History, VI.] (Madison: the University. 1922. Pp. xi, 209. \$2.00.)

IN 1915 an important group of Greek papyri was discovered at the village of Kharabet el Gerza in the Fayum in Egypt, taken from the correspondence files of a Greek named Zenon. These have gradually been coming into the hands of the editors of papyri in the Cairo museum and in other museums and libraries in Europe and England. One of the letters was recently obtained by Professor Francis W. Kelsey for the important collection which he has built up at the University of Michigan. Already some three hundred and fifty letters from the files of Zenon have been read and published by competent papyrologists and many others are soon to appear. Over a hundred more are known to be still in the hands of the dealers in papyri. The entire correspondence centres about a single man, this Greek from Caria named Zenon, who was an important secondary figure in Ptolemaic Egypt in the middle of the third century B. C. The unusual importance of the "Zenon papyri" lies in the fact that the third century before Christ was the great constructive period of the Ptolemaic régime and that our previous knowledge of the internal activities and methods of the able Ptolemies of just that century had not been clarified because of the lack of available information.

With full knowledge of the probability that the evidence of the unpublished materials of the Zenon group might well change many details of his work, Professor Rostovtzeff of the University of Wisconsin has attempted a reconstruction of the activities of Zenon as displayed in the letters and other documents already available, in a study which he calls *A Large Estate in Egypt in the Third Century B. C.* The result is a most interesting and most valuable addition to our knowledge of the economic life of that important country and period, happily of the wider scope indicated in the subtitle of the book, "A Study in Economic History".

Zenon appears in full light in the year 258 B. C. as a personal agent in the impressive court of the finance minister of Egypt, one Apollonius. This was the time in which the great engineering project of Ptolemy Philadelphus for reclamation of land in the Fayum was in full swing. In 256 B. C. Zenon had become the chief economic manager of the